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**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
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W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers**

**FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
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BHCE/BWP OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 04-50

DATE: 10/04/2004

FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	WtW	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/> ★			

PRIORITY: HIGH

**SUBJECT: Expanding the Food Stamp Broad Based Categorically Eligible Gross
Income Limit to Elderly, Blind and Disabled Households**

CROSS REFERENCE: FSH Appendix 01.03.01; 1.06.00; 17.01.01; 17.01.02
Operations Memos: 04-29, 04-33

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 22, 2004

PURPOSE

This memo announces the expansion of the Food Stamp Program broad based categorical eligibility gross income test to FS households with Elderly, Blind or Disabled (EBD) members.

BACKGROUND

Broad-based categorical eligibility (BB Cat) removed the net income and asset tests for FS households that meet the BB Cat criteria. Currently, all BB Cat FS households except EBD households are tested with a gross income test of 200% FPL. EBD households that are categorically eligible are not tested for either the gross or the net income limits. Because of this, EBD cases with one or two members are eligible for a \$10 allotment even if their income exceeds both the net and the gross income limits.

POLICY

Effective October 22, 2004, the FS Program will apply the 200% FPL gross income test to all BB CAT households including EBD as a condition of eligibility. EBD households that are not BB Cat eligible (contain a drug felon or have an IPV) will continue to be tested against the 100% FPL net income limit.

CASE PROCESSING

Effective with this change, CARES will automatically apply the expanded categorical eligibility policy to EBD cases. If the EBD household's income exceeds the 200% FPL gross income limit, the FS case will close. A negative notice will be sent with reason code 013: INCOME REPORTED EXCEEDS THE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY STANDARD.

CONTACTS

BHCE CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

★Program Categories – FS – Food Stamps, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WtW – Welfare to Work, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHFS/DHCF/BHCE/JW/JE